Docket No.: 249142US0DIV

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :

Mikio TAKAIWA, et al. : ATTN: APPLICATIONS DIVISION

SERIAL NO: NEW APPLICATION

FILED: HEREWITH :

FOR: ALKALINE PROTEASE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS P.O. BOX 1450 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450

SIR:

Prior to examination on the merits, Applicant respectfully requests entry and consideration of the following amendments.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this response.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 6 of this response.

Support for the Amendment appears on page 9 of this response.

Remarks begin on page 10 of this response.